# EXHIBIT A



### Flea Collars May Be Killing Your Pet

By Melaina Juntti

Most flea collars contain toxic pesticides that can hinder brain development and even cause cancer.

You may want to stop using flea collars to protect your pets from pests. Most collars contain the toxic pesticides propoxur and tetrachlorvinphos (TCVP), which can hinder brain development and even cause cancer. These pesticides pose the biggest threat to babies and children, whose brains and bodies are still developing, but they're also hazardous for adults and, very likely, dogs and cats. "Propoxur and TCVP are both way too dangerous to be on the market," says Miriam Rotkin-Ellman, senior health scientist at the Natural Resources Defense Council.

NRDC has been pleading for the Environmental Protection Agency to ban propoxur and TCVP for nearly a decade. Just this week, NRDC filed a lawsuit against EPA, hoping a judge can force the government agency's hand. Since the EPA has already outlawed or restricted use of most other, similar neurotoxic pesticides, Rotkin-Ellman sees no reason why propoxur and TCVP shouldn't also get the axe.

Flea collars leave a pesticide residue on dogs' and cats' fur, which then gets all over carpet, furniture, and us, when we hug and pet them. These chemicals get absorbed through our skin or go directly into our nose and mouths when we grab food or use our smartphones. Little kids, who play on the floor and stick their hands in their mouths, are especially at risk.

"You don't need to douse your home in toxins in order to control fleas," Rotkin-Ellman says. "Instead, give them regular baths, keep them groomed, keeping areas where they sleep and eat clean. In the event chemicals are needed, find a product that's less toxic, and use as little of it as possible."

To find safer flea control, check out the <u>NRDC's Green Paws product guide</u>. This online tool also ranks more than 125 flea and tick products based on ingredients and assesses each one's safety for people and animals.

# EXHIBIT B

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#### Harmful Household Chemicals to Ditch Now

By Sarah B. Weir, Shine Senior Writer | Healthy Living – Fri, Feb 7, 2014 4:25 PM EST



Keep your household safe from toxic chemicals such as those found in flea collars (Getty Images)

As consumers, we often assume that the products we buy are safe and healthy for our families, but unfortunately that's not always the case. On Thursday afternoon, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) filed a federal lawsuit against the EPA related to two hazardous pesticides. Propoxur and tetrachlorvinphos (TCVP) are banned for use in most household products because of their danger to children, but they are still used in flea collars for dogs and cats. These neurotoxins can have a similar impact on kids' brains as exposure to lead and might also cause cancer. "We've been putting pressure on EPA for almost a decade on this," Miriam Rotkin-Ellman, a senior public health scientist at NRDC, tells Yahoo Shine.

Children are particularly susceptible to household toxins. "Pound for pound, they eat more, drink more, and breathe in more air than adults," Leonardo Trasande, a pediatrician and expert in environmental medicine explains to Yahoo Shine. He adds that their developing organs are vulnerable and can be permanently damaged from exposure to certain chemicals. Children also play close to the ground where toxins settle and often put their hands into their

mouths.

#### Related: Hidden Toxins in Your Home

Pets are mammals and their nervous systems are also susceptible to these pesticides, explains Rotkin-Ellman. She says low-level toxicity can be hard to spot in pets; it might manifest in lowered energy and cognitive function. In high doses, these chemicals can be deadly. And having these chemicals on pets can also expose the humans around them. "It's a good issue that the NRDC has brought forward," Sonya Lunder, senior analyst at Environmental Working Group (EWG), tells Yahoo Shine. "We want to lower kids' exposure to organophosphates," the class of chemicals that include propoxur and TCVP. She points to three studies released in 2012 that linked organophosphates to lower IQ.

More on Yahoo: Is Your Family BPA-Free?

The NRDC recommends avoiding flea collar brands that use them, including Sergeant's Pet Care Products, Wellmark International, and Hartz Mountain. It has also published an updated Green Paws product guide, listing safer alternatives.

Exposure to harmful chemicals in household products is an issue that goes way beyond flea collars. "Consumers get a lot of distracting advice from manufacturers," says Rotkin-Ellman. Lower our health risks takes a combination of demanding regulating agencies, such as the EPA, phase out the most harmful chemicals and using common sense at the store. It's usually not difficult to find healthier substitutes. Here are potentially harmful products that you can readily eliminate from your shopping list now:

**Antibacterial soap.** Soaps that contain triclosoan and triclorcarbon don't clean any more effectively than conventional soap and water, but can disrupt hormonal function and might be linked to the increase in antibiotic-resistant bacteria. They don't get completely broken down during sewage treatment, and they pollute rivers and streams, which further harms plant and animal life. Just use plain soap or alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

**Fertilizer combined with weed killer.** Avoid products labeled "weed and feed," which contain a carcinogenic Agent Orange chemical called 2,4-D. You'll end up spreading the dangerous herbicide far more widely than necessary in this formulation. Instead, pull up weeds by hand and spot-apply weed killer sparingly.

**Bisphenol A (BPA).** This chemical is used in the linings of canned food and beverage containers, and over 90 percent of Americans carry its residue in their bodies. According to the NRDC, BPA is a hormone-disruptor that has also been linked to impaired development of the brain and nervous system, breast cancer, prostate cancer, and metabolic diseases including obesity and heart disease. While it's been banned for use in baby bottles and baby-formula containers, children and adults can be exposed in other ways. Trasande recommends reducing the use of aluminum cans and avoiding

microwaving food and beverages in plastic. "Don't wash plastics in the dishwasher and if plastics become etched or scratched, throw them away," he adds.

Harsh cleaning products. "This is an area where alternatives are readily available," says Rotkin-Ellman. "If you look at the ingredients label and understand what they mean, that's a good sign. Always start with [the] least toxic options before you reach for a heavy-duty cleaning product." As a rule of thumb, if a product carries the label "dangerous," "toxic," "poison," "may cause burns," or "fatal if swallowed or inhaled," don't bring it in the house. EWG has a guide, Healthy Home Tips, which covers the basics of what chemicals to avoid in home and personal care products.

Flame retardants. Fire-retardant chemicals are commonly found in foam furniture like couches, mattresses, carpet padding, and some children's products, especially those manufactured before 2005. They have been linked to a range of health problems such as cancer, male infertility, and lower IQ. The toxins flake off and settle into dust. Children are particularly vulnerable, Lunder says. "Because of the way they play, a recent study found that 19 out of 20 kids had more fire-retardant chemicals in their blood than their moms." Obviously, you aren't going to get rid of all your furniture, but you can reduce your risk. A new standard is set to go into effect next year, but to limit exposure now, vacuum frequently with a HEPA filter or damp mop to avoid spreading the dust.

Lunder says people, especially parents, can feel overwhelmed by a "laundry list" of what they should do when it comes to avoiding chemicals in everyday products. Both the NRDC and EWG websites offer a wealth of information on how to be a thoughtful consumer in a realistic way.

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## EPA Sued In Effort To Remove Potentially Toxic Chemicals From Fido's Flea Collar

By Kate Cox February 7, 2014



(jonasflanken)

It is the *worst* when our furry friends pick up fleas and then bring them into our homes. Except, it's really not quite the worst. What's worse? When the flea collar you buy for Fido damages your child's brain with neurotoxins.

The Natural Resource Defense Council has filed a lawsuit against the EPA related to two chemicals found in flea collars, propoxur and tetrachlorvinphos (TCVP), that the NRDC wants the EPA to ban. Specifically, the suit "seeks to force EPA to respond to NRDC's petitions to cancel all pet uses and manufacturer registrations of these two chemicals."

Flea collars work by intentionally leaving pesticides on a pet's fur. As the NRDC's health attorney explained in a blog post, according to federal law "a pesticide cannot be sold that may cause adverse impacts to human health or the environment." If a pesticide hurts something other than bugs (like, say, people), its supposed to be pulled from the market.

These particular two chemicals can be very harmful when children ingest them, the NRDC says, likening the effects on kids to the effects of lead poisoning. The advocacy group has been petitioning the EPA to discontinue allowing the use of one chemical since 2007 and the other since 2009. In 2010, the EPA issued an assessment finding that the risks to children from toxin levels were "of concern" but the agency has not taken any further action regarding their use.

A determined young child truly will put anything and everything she can reach into her mouth. This does, in fact, include the family cat (at least until kitty learns to see trouble coming and run away faster). And while a little fur probably won't hurt Junior, the chemicals on it can. The NRDC writes,

Once on a child's skin, the pesticide is absorbed through the skin or it can be ingested when a child puts their hand in their mouth. Propoxur and TCVP are types of pesticides that are known to be toxic to brain development, nervous system communication and can cause cancer. Children are particularly vulnerable

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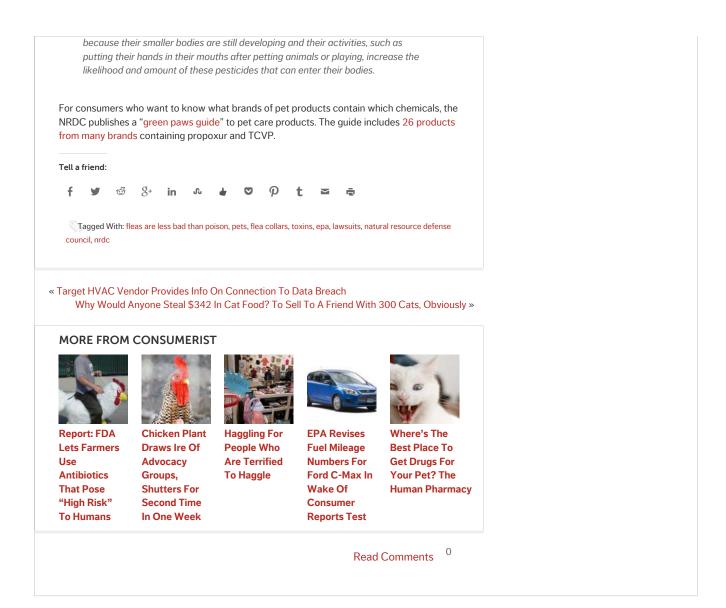
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# EXHIBIT D





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#### Pet Gaze

# Suit against EPA seeks ban on pesticides in flea treatments



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Written by Wisconsin Gazette Friday, 07 February 2014 13:58



The Natural Resources Defense Council has filed a lawsuit seeking to push the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to respond to its petitions and ban two hazardous pesticides used in popular pet flea treatment products.

The EPA has restricted household use of some neurotoxic pesticides due to concerns that the products can harm children's brains and nervous systems, but it still allows neurotoxic propoxur and tetrachlorvinphos (TCVP) to be used in flea treatments for dogs and cats.

The lawsuit filed this week seeks to force EPA to respond to cancel all pet uses and manufacturer registrations fo the two chemicals.

"These flea collars leave a toxic residue on pets' fur, exposing children to chemicals which can have harmful effects on their brains, similar to those from lead," said Miriam Rotkin-Ellman, senior scientist with NRDC's health program. "Luckily, there are less-toxic alternatives readily available to control fleas. Nearly a decade has passed since NRDC urged EPA to get these toxic chemical collars off store shelves, but the agency continues to drag its feet. After all, EPA decided long ago that nervous system-damaging chemicals shouldn't be used indoors, so why is it OK to put them on our pets?"

Flea collars are designed to leave pesticide residues on pet fur, exposing people to the chemicals they contain when they play with their pet or touch pet bedding. Once on a child's skin, the pesticide is absorbed through the skin or it can be ingested when a child puts their hand in their mouth.

Propoxur and TCVP are types of pesticides that are known to be toxic to brain development, nervous system communication and can cause cancer. Children are particularly vulnerable because their smaller bodies are still developing and their activities, such as putting their hands in their mouths after petting animals or playing, increase the likelihood and amount of these pesticides that can enter their bodies, according to the NRDC.

In large doses, these chemicals can also harm or kill dogs, cats and in extreme poisoning cases, even humans.

To protect against exposure to these chemicals, NRDC recommends avoiding flea collars brands that use them, including: Sergeant's Pet Care Products, Inc., Wellmark International and Hartz Mountain Corporation. NRDC has updated its Green Paws product guide, which encourages consumers and pet owners to use safer methods of pet flea control.

NRDC's Green Paws guide also ranks more than 125 flea and tick products based on ingredients, categorizing them by the level of their potential health threat to people and animals.

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# EXHIBIT E

### **Envirothink**

### NRDC sues EPA over toxic chemicals in flea collars

Posted on February 7, 2014 by Debra Atlas (<a href="http://envirothink.files.wordpress.com/2014/02/flea-collars1.jpg">http://envirothink.files.wordpress.com/2014/02/flea-collars1.jpg</a>)
Many pet lovers know the annoyance of getting rid of flea infestations. There are a number of <a href="mailto:natural remedies">natural remedies</a> (<a href="http://envirothink.wordpress.com/?s=fleas">http://envirothink.wordpress.com/?s=fleas</a>) that can help alleviate this situation.

Flea collars are popular because they take away the worry and hassle of having to deal with the issue. But these handy items contain toxic chemicals that could be putting us and our pets at risk.



Stepping up to the issue, today the <u>Natural Resources Defense Council (http://www.nrdc.org/)</u> NRDC) announced it has filed a lawsuit in federal court against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) seeking a response to NRDC's petitions to ban two hazardous pesticides used in popular pet flea treatment products. The EPA allows two neurotoxic pesticides – propoxur and tetrachlorvinphos (TCVP) – to be used in flea treatments for dogs and cats. NRDC's lawsuit seeks to force the EPA to respond to NRDC's petitions to cancel all pet uses and manufacturer registrations of these two chemicals.

(http://envirothink.files.wordpress.com/2010/04/flea-season-1.jpg)"These flea collars leave a toxic residue on pets' fur, exposing children to chemicals which can have harmful effects on their brains, similar to those from lead" said Miriam Rotkin-Ellman, senior scientist with NRDC's health program. "(The) EPA decided long ago that nervous system-damaging chemicals shouldn't be used indoors," she said, "so why is it OK to put them on our pets?"

Flea collars leave pesticide residues on pet fur, exposing people to the chemicals they contain when they play with their pet or touch pet bedding. Propoxur and TCVP are pesticides that are known to be toxic to



brain development, nervous system communication and can cause cancer. Children are particularly vulnerable because their smaller bodies are still developing and their activities, such as putting their hands in their mouths after petting animals or playing, increase the likelihood and amount of these pesticides that can enter their bodies. In large doses, these chemicals can also harm or kill dogs, cats and in extreme poisoning cases, even humans.



(http://envirothink.files.wordpress.com/2014/02/flea-collar-dangerour-to-kids.jpg)

Kids can ingest the dangerous pesticides in flea collars

To protect against exposure to these chemicals, NRDC recommends avoiding flea collars brands that use them, including:

- Sergeant's Pet Care Products, Inc.
- Wellmark International
- Hartz Mountain Corporation

NRDC has updated its <u>Green Paws product guide</u> (http://www.simplesteps.org/greenpaws-products), which encourages consumers and pet owners to use safer methods of pet flea control. NRDC's Green Paws guide also ranks more than 125 flea and tick products based on ingredients, categorizing them by the level of their potential health threat to people and animals.

This is another case of being an educated consumer. The more you know, the wiser and healthier your purchasing choices can be. What you don't know really can hurt you – or your kids.

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